

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently amended) ~~The image processing apparatus according to claim 1,~~  
further An image processing apparatus for generating a wide-angle picture by  
overlapping three or more pictures captured at different visual points, each picture  
including a part of at least one other picture, the image processing apparatus  
comprising:

an overlap detecting means for detecting an overlap portion of a first picture and  
a second picture within the wide-angle picture;

a comparing means for comparing pixel values between pixels of the first and  
second pictures in each of the overlap portions within the wide-angle picture;

a splicing means for performing a splicing by shifting the overlap portions based  
on the comparison by the comparing means;

a difference calculating means for calculating the absolute value of differences in  
pixel values, for each color component, between the first and second picture pixels  
identical in position on the wide-angle picture in each of the overlap portions,

wherein the comparing means compares the sum of the absolute values from all  
of the overlap portions with a first predetermined threshold; and

a logarithm transformation means for performing a logarithm transformation of the sum, wherein the comparing means compares the logarithm transformation of the sum with a second predetermined threshold.

4. (Currently amended) ~~The image processing apparatus according to claim 1,~~  
~~further~~ An image processing apparatus for generating a wide-angle picture by  
overlapping three or more pictures captured at different visual points, each picture  
including a part of at least one other picture, the image processing apparatus  
comprising:

an overlap detecting means for detecting an overlap portion of a first picture and  
a second picture within the wide-angle picture;

a comparing means for comparing pixel values between pixels of the first and  
second pictures in each of the overlap portions within the wide-angle picture;

a splicing means for performing a splicing by shifting the overlap portions based  
on the comparison by the comparing means;

a difference calculating means for calculating the absolute value of differences in  
pixel values, for each color component, between the first and second picture pixels  
identical in position on the wide-angle picture in each of the overlap portions,

wherein the comparing means compares the sum of the absolute values from all  
of the overlap portions with a first predetermined threshold; and

a median detecting means for calculating the median value, for each color  
component, of the absolute values in the overlap portions,

wherein the comparing means compares the sum of the median values with a  
second predetermined threshold.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) A computer-readable media storing a program for causing a computer to execute a method for generating a wide-angle picture by overlapping three or more pictures captured at different visual points, each picture including a part of at least one other picture, the method comprising:

detecting an overlap portion of a first picture with a second picture within the wide-angle picture;

comparing pixel values between pixels of the first and the second pictures in each of the overlap portions in the wide-angle picture;

performing a splicing by shifting the overlap portions based on the comparison obtained by a processing in the comparison step;

calculating the absolute value of differences in pixel values, for each color component, between the first and the second picture pixels identical in position on the wide-angle picture in each of the overlap portions;

calculating the median value, for each color component, of the absolute values;  
and

comparing the sum of the median values with a predetermined threshold.